

E1-347

To: Mr. Vernon Williams  
Secretary to the Board-Surface Transportation Board, Washington DC  
RE: Docket # AB55-  
Sub. #643 X  
Date: 11/24/03



Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing to both yourself and the Chairman regarding the Wabash Subdivision of the Chicago Division, trackage in Northwestern Indiana. This trackage has just been filed for abandonment very recently. I and 2 other gentlemen are interested in saving this section of trackage which totals about 35 miles in length, and has 3 crossings with 3 class 1 lines. Those being Canadian National, CSXT, Norfolk Southern. It is my strong belief that I and the other gentlemen can most definitely operate this line well into the future to serve both shippers and receivers with a strong commitment to grow traffic on this line segment as well. I would like to briefly comment that I and one other gentleman both have shortline experience. I had worked for a similar size line a few years ago with my duties covering sales, marketing and conductor and track maintenance personnel. The other gentleman had actually worked for CSX serving the line in question. I would like to know at this time what procedure I would have to follow in order to do 1 of 2 things: To either outright purchase the trackage. Or to get permission to become a designated operator over the line, (just until we can secure financing). Also I understand that you can help to provide capital assistance for such items as track work and grade crossing repairs etc. Please advise me as to how we may proceed on this matter. I Thankyou very much for your time on this matter. With my regards, sincerely, Tom Drazba.

CC: Mel Jessup

CC: Mark Knebel